

## OBITUARY

## Gerrit Parmele Wilder

(Read by O. H. Swezey at the meeting of Dec. 5, 1935)

In the death of Dr. Gerrit Parmele Wilder on September 29th, 1935, the Hawaiian Entomological Society has lost one of its oldest members. Having been born in Honolulu, November 5th, 1863, a long and active career devoted to many interests in the Territory of Hawaii has now come to a close.

Dr. Wilder was elected to membership in the Hawaiian Entomological Society March 9, 1905, only a few months after the organization of the Society. Although not a professional entomologist, he always had a keen interest in the welfare of the Society, his interest in entomology being that of the horticulturist, and entomology has a very vital connection with horticulture.

Dr. Wilder made no contributions to the "Proceedings" of our Society other than brief notes and observations on insects of particular interest or importance with which he came in contact in the garden or forest, or in foreign parts. As he had done much botanical exploring in the later years in the island groups of the South Pacific in connection with discovery and introduction of valuable fruit trees and ornamental trees and plants, he had opportunities for collecting many interesting insects of those regions, and the Bishop Museum collections are enriched with many specimens contributed by Dr. Wilder. A month was spent in Samoa in 1923 in company with Mr. O. H. Swezey, collecting insects and tree seeds, etc. Perhaps this was the beginning of special interest in insects of the South Seas. His name is perpetuated in the following names of insects from that region:

*Hyalobathra wilderi* Tams, a yellow pyraustine moth.

*Xyleborus wilderi* Beeson, a scolytid beetle.

*Deretiosus wilderi* Marshall, a cryptorrhynchine weevil.

*Paurocephala wilderi* Crawford, a psyllid occurring on *Ficus* sp.

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*Swezwilderia bryani* Chopard, a cricket.

His whole life was devoted to helping others, giving his time and talents whenever opportunity presented. He will be greatly missed at the meetings of the Society.

Committee

O. H. SWEZEY.

EDWARD M. EHRHORN.